



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 4, 2005

CONTACT
Sharon Hoey 617-626-1267

STATE COMMENDS ARTISTS FOR WORK AT STATE PARKS
Depictions of nature, landscape enliven 'Iron Ranger' receptacles

In a ceremony today at Borderland State Park in Easton, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) recognized artists who painted wildlife and landscape scenes on seven "Iron Rangers," receptacles that allow guests to make voluntary financial contribution to benefit the state forests and parks system through the Conservation Trust.

"This program has succeeded in advancing the Department's *Clean and Green* initiative that strives to improve park appearance while promoting partnerships in the parks," said Priscilla Geigis, DCR Director of State Parks and Recreation. "The artists have given the Iron Rangers a fresh new look, which has generated interest in and support for the state's parks, beaches and forests." This support can be seen in the increased donations: some painted Iron Rangers have brought in more than double the contributions they generated last year.

The Iron Rangers painted this year are located at Borderland State Park in Easton; Elwell Recreation Area at the Connecticut River Greenway State Park in Northampton; Mount Grace State Forest in Warwick; Walden Pond State Reservation in Concord; and Wompatuck State Park in Hingham.

The program, now in its second year, provided an opportunity for artists to display their work in one of DCR's parks while helping to enhance the look of the Iron Rangers. The Commonwealth attracts 35 million visitors to its many state and urban beaches, parks and forests each year.

The DCR Conservation Trust, established by legislation (Ch. 132A §1) in 1990, receives, exempt from taxation, bequests, restitution or gifts to be used for the purpose of advancing the recreational and conservation interests of the Commonwealth. The Trust provides a way for citizens, businesses and foundations to contribute to the recreational and conservation interests of Massachusetts. Tax-deductible contributions can be designated for particular parks or programs of the donor's choice.

###

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston MA 02114-2119
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax
www.mass.gov/dcr



Mitt Romney
Governor

Kerry Healey
Lt. Governor

Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Stephen H. Burrington, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation